



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JUDGE IN WACO SENTENCES ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL
TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 54-year-old Ruben Dilkes of Waco, Texas, was sentenced yesterday to 188 months in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr., ordered Dilkes to be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On April 6, 2004, a federal jury convicted Dilkes. Federal and local authorities executed a search warrant at Dilkes residence on August 20, 2003. During the search, authorities recovered 10 firearms including an Israeli Military Industries 9mm semi-automatic pistol, a Savage .270 rifle with scope and a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. Dilkes' criminal history includes felony convictions for robbery, escape, burglary of a habitation, burglary of a building and injury to child.

"Today's sentence should send a chilling message to criminals who possess firearms in Texas," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "You will be prosecuted and punished. Because there is no parole from federal prison, Mr. Dilkes will be close to 70 years old before he gets out of prison."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the Waco Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Doug Gardner and Special Assistant United States Attorney Shelly Strimple prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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